

# PROTECTING SENIORS' ACCESS TO MEDICARE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 18, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the wellbeing of seniors in my district. The House passed H.R. 1190, which would repeal provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as ObamaCare, to create an unelected Independent Patient Advisory Board (IPAB) to determine Medicare benefits.

Currently, ObamaCare grants the IPAB the authority to unilaterally cut Medicare spending, risking the solvency and stability of the program, without an Act of Congress. Simply put, the unelected and unaccountable Washington bureaucrats, not patients and doctors, control the level of benefits at the most important health care system for seniors.

Like millions of seniors, my late mother depended on Medicare for quality health care to meet her needs during her golden years. Because this issue is so personal to me, I am proud to join Representative ROE (R-TN) and 233 other bipartisan cosponsors in the House to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to protect Medicare for today's seniors, while providing a fiscally sound program to assist future generations. Our seniors deserve the best health care, and the right to make their own choices and not rely on unaccountable executive appointments to make decisions for them.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support the bipartisan Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015 and the repeal of the IPAB.

## CONGRATULATING PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES ON EARNING PLACEMENT ON THE FORTUNE 500 LIST

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pioneer Natural Resources of Irving, Texas, on having a successful fiscal year and joining an elite group of businesses on the Fortune 500 list.

Pioneer is a strong and driven company set on providing oil and natural gas to the world. They work to meet the needs and demands of the oil and natural gas market that drives much of the energy industry. Pioneer has provided many years of stable economic growth, producing jobs and opportunities worldwide. It is an incredibly active and enriching company, and I am honored to have such a business within the 24th district of Texas.

This company was not built overnight. Pioneer came to be by hardworking individuals and tactical strategic intelligent business maneuvers. With large oil and natural gas operations, its economic impact is felt far and wide. But its positive impact on local communities is just as meaningful. Pioneer's employ-

ees give back by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, Dallas Court Appointed Special Advocates, the United Way, and the North Texas Food Bank, to name a few.

By focusing on economic growth and helping the communities in which they are involved, Pioneer has built a strong reputation. This company will continue expanding and practicing smart business tactics that will bring about more jobs and enrich the lives of Texans and many others. Pioneer has brought pride to the 24th district of Texas and continues to be a positive influence in the state and our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Pioneer Natural Resources as a member of the Forbes 500 list. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating such an accomplishment.

## TRIBUTE TO STANLEY HANKIN

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished public servant, Stanley Hankin, after a remarkable 53 years of service to our country. On July 3, 2015, Mr. Hankin will be retiring from the U.S. Department of Labor, leaving a legacy of extraordinary dedication to the Department and to the American worker.

Mr. Hankin arrived at the U.S. Department of Labor in 1962 as a graduate student at the University of Maryland. He began in the Division of State and Federal Relations within the Bureau of Employment Security, where he developed national training programs for workers in the State Employment Security system. At that time, videotape technology was just being introduced, although its uses were largely unknown within the government. Using his initiative and foresight, Mr. Hankin transformed video into an integral part of the Department's strategy to convey its messages to the American public.

As an innovator and forward-thinker, Mr. Hankin's talents as an Audiovisual Producer were well-known. He ran nationwide training workshops on how to videotape and produce programs, and he began videotaping significant meetings and sending the recordings to employees in the field. Mr. Hankin also persuaded the Job Corps and the Bureau of Apprenticeship to utilize video PSAs as tools for promoting their good work. After Jobs Corps began to collaborate with the National Football League, Mr. Hankin produced the first in-house Department of Labor PSA, which featured Rosey Grier and Ron Jaworski of the Philadelphia Eagles and Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Mr. Hankin continued his work with video into the 1970s, a period when the technology was gaining popularity. During this time, he began efforts to use video as a means of communicating with workers, and also started a program to coach Department of Labor executives for on-camera appearances and interviews. In the 1980s, when the Department of Labor was given a fully operational Ampex Television studio, Mr. Hankin seized the opportunity. Before long, he was producing award-winning programs for both employees

and employers. Mr. Hankin's accomplishments were so widespread that he was invited to Amsterdam to teach its Labor Department employees how to produce video programming. He was then asked to document the 1983 Conference of Liberators, which brought together men and women from across the world who had played a role in liberating Nazi concentration camps. The resulting work, *To Bear Witness*, brought the Department critical acclaim, winning an Emmy in 1983.

From the 1990s until today, Mr. Hankin continued to approach the Department's use of various forms of media with great innovation. Among many other projects, he produced emergency PSAs for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and *Up From Zero*, a program documenting the heroic workers in New York City who reclaimed and recovered the World Trade Center site. Considered by Mr. Hankin to be one of the Department's crowning achievements, *Up From Zero* won numerous awards, including the coveted CINE Golden Eagle Award. His most recent plans include making video-streaming a regular component of the Department's events and maintaining the standard of excellence expected of the Department's television facility.

Whether he was training Department employees on how to better communicate the goals of their new programs and initiatives or producing PSAs to help the unemployed, at-risk youth, or veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Mr. Hankin always has supported the mission of the Department to assist and protect the rights of American workers. Over the course of his career, he produced or directed more than 1000 video programs and projects.

Through his leadership, infectious energy, and enthusiasm, Mr. Hankin has inspired a standard of excellence in the creative disciplines throughout the Department of Labor. A truly remarkable and accomplished public servant, he has received well-deserved recognition and the love and respect of employees throughout the decades.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Stanley Hankin for his 53 years of outstanding service to our country.

## A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA THIEVON— DECADES OF SERVICE

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, Members of this House come from all backgrounds, walks of life, and political philosophies. We are truly a diverse group. However, each and every one of us has at least one thing in common—the desire to provide quality service to the hundreds of thousands of constituents who call us “Representative.”

My predecessor, the late Representative Dean A. Gallo, established a well-earned reputation for prompt and accurate constituent service, helping thousands of New Jersey residents over his two decades of service in Congress. I would like to think that I have been successful in emulating Dean's stellar record.

There is no mystery about this continuity and I would like to identify and pay tribute to